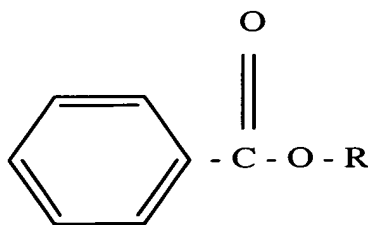


AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

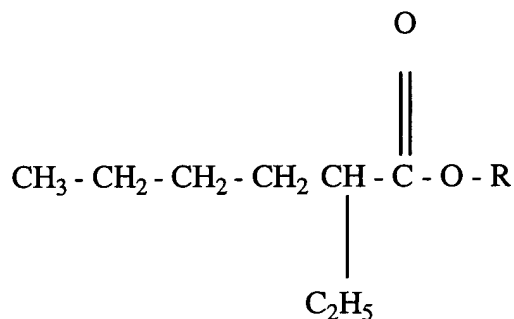
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A benzoate ester of branched monomethyl C16 and C17 alcohol having the structure:



where R = monomethyl branched C16 - C17 alkyl

2. (previously presented) An octanoate ester of branched monomethyl C16 and C17 alcohol having the structure:



where R = monomethyl branched C16 - C17 alkyl.

3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented) The benzoate ester of claim 1 which is prepared by the esterification of benzoic acid and branched monomethyl C16 and C17 alcohol having the structure:

C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-OH



C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-OH



5. (previously presented) The octanoate ester of claim 2 which is prepared by the esterification of 2-ethyl hexanoic acid and branched monomethyl C16 and C17 alcohol having the structure:

C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-OH



C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-OH



6. (canceled) .

7. (previously presented) A method of preparing the benzoate ester of claim 1 comprising reacting benzoic acid with branched monomethyl C16 and C17 alcohol having the structure:

C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-OH



C

C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-OH



C

8. (previously presented) A method of preparing the octanoate ester of claim 2 comprising reacting 2-ethyl hexanoic acid with branched monomethyl C16 and C17 alcohol having the structure:

C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-OH



C

C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-OH



C

9. (canceled) .

10. (previously presented) A sunscreen composition comprising an effective amount of the benzoate ester of claim 1.

11. (previously presented) A sunscreen composition comprising an effective amount of the octanoate ester of claim 2.

12. (canceled).

13. (previously presented) An antiperspirant composition comprising an effective amount of the benzoate ester of claim 1.

14. (previously presented) An antiperspirant composition comprising an effective amount of the octanoate ester of claim 2.

15. (canceled).

16. (previously presented) A skin or hair care preparation comprising an effective amount of the benzoate ester of claim 1.

17. (previously presented) A skin or hair care preparation comprising an effective amount of the octanoate ester of claim 2.

18. (canceled).

19. (previously presented) A method of blocking the effects of the sun on human skin or hair comprising applying to the skin or hair a formulation comprising an effective amount of a sunscreen composition according to claim 10.

20. (previously presented) A method of blocking the effects of the sun on human skin or hair comprising applying to the skin or hair a formulation comprising an effective amount of a sunscreen composition according to claim 11.

21. (canceled).

22. (previously presented) A skin or hair care method comprising applying to the skin or hair a formulation comprising a benzoate ester according to claim 1.

23. (previously presented) A skin or hair care method comprising applying to the skin or hair a formulation comprising an octanoate ester according to claim 2.

24. (canceled).

25. (previously presented) The composition of claim 10 further comprising one or more components selected from the group consisting of surfactants, neutralizers, stabilizers, coloring agents, fragrances, plasticizers, foam stabilizers, film forming polymers, preservatives, antistats, sequestrants, water, dyes, perfume, thickeners, preservatives, plant extracts, and customary additive and auxiliary substances.

26. (previously presented) The composition of claim 11 further comprising one or more components selected from the group consisting of surfactants, neutralizers, stabilizers, coloring agents, fragrances, plasticizers, foam stabilizers, film forming polymers, preservatives, antistats, sequestrants, water, dyes, perfume, thickeners, preservatives, plant extracts, and customary additive and auxiliary substances.

27. (canceled).